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May 2002



Keith Atkins Honored as City/BLW Employee of the Quarter



Keith Atkins, City/BLW Employee of the Quarter

In addition to winning over customers of the Marietta Board of Lights and Water (BLW), Keith Atkins' outstanding service and winning attitude recently earned him recognition as the first recipient of the City/BLW Employee of the Quarter award.

"The award came as quite a surprise, even though several customers told me that they intended to nominate me," said Atkins, who works in the BLW's Customer Care Department. "I enjoy my job and I endeavor to help each customer the best I can. I feel very honored to receive this award."

"I just wish each and every representative could receive the award because everyone here does an excellent job," he added. "Our customers appreciate us but we also appreciate them."

Atkins does such an exceptional job that many regular customers refuse to talk with anyone but him.

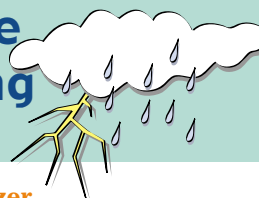
"Mr. Atkins has been very helpful and cooperative in assisting me all the time," one customer said. "As long as he is in the office, I will never ask to see anyone else. That's how comfortable I feel about the way he handles my matters. He is the best. Mr. Atkins is superb."

"He is a perfect gentleman with mutual understanding," another customer said. "He knows how to deal with any kind of

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Five Easy Ways to Minimize the Inconvenience of Spring and Summer Storms



As spring becomes summer, we can all look forward to long, sunny days and warm, fun-filled evenings. Unfortunately, warmer weather also brings seasonal thunderstorms that cause occasional power outages.

If you happen to lose electrical power because of a thunderstorm this spring or summer, please remember these important tips:

• Immediately Report a Downed Power Line

If you lose power, please call Marietta Power immediately at **770-794-5160**.

• Stay Away From Fallen Lines

No matter how harmless it looks, never touch a downed wire.

• Disconnect Major Appliances

Turn off any appliance you had in operation when the power went off. That includes electric ovens and air conditioners. Turning appliances off will help prevent an electrical system overload when your power comes back on.

• Avoid Opening the Freezer

Opening the lid or door on your freezer will cause food to thaw more quickly during a power outage. Food in a well-packed freezer can remain frozen for up to 72 hours if you keep the door closed.

• Use as Many Refrigerated Goods as You Can

If you don't think you'll get power back for a while, try to use as much food as you can from your refrigerator. Even if you keep your refrigerator door closed, the food inside will warm up and begin to spoil relatively quickly during a power outage.

These simple guidelines will help you minimize your inconvenience and maximize your safety when an occasional thunderstorm interrupts your summer routine. ⚡



Father's Day Honors the Courage and Love of the Most Important Men in Our Lives

Historians credit Sonora Dodd with originating the idea of a father's day celebration.

The idea first occurred to her as she listened to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. She felt that her father, William Smart, also deserved a special day in his honor. A Civil War veteran, William Smart raised Sonora and five other children by himself after his wife died while giving birth to their sixth child.

When she reached adulthood, Sonora came to appreciate the selfless sacrifices that William Smart had made while rearing his children.

To honor the courage and love he had demonstrated throughout her life, she held the first father's day celebration in Spokane, Wash., on June 19, 1910. She chose June because her father had been born in that month.

In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge learned of the idea and expressed support for establishing a national Father's Day. Another 42 years passed before President Lyndon B. Johnson finally signed a Presidential Proclamation that officially declared the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. ⚡

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customer. He knows how to treat customers with gentle feeling and a human approach."

City/BLW Personnel Director Nancy Martin presented Atkins with his Employee of the Quarter pin on April 3, during a surprise ceremony at the BLW building. He also received a plaque, a bouquet of balloons, and a special reserved parking space for the next three months.

"My supervisor came to my desk and said she wanted to see me, but she did not head toward her office. So I was a little suspicious wondering to myself, 'where are we going?'" Atkins said. "But I just followed and then I saw a lot of people standing there and cameras going off when I left the office area and entered the waiting room area."

The Employee of the Quarter Committee chose Atkins for the honor after reviewing 105 nominations for this award. Sixty nominations came from the public and 45 came from employees. In all, 20 employees from BLW

departments/divisions were nominated for the award.

A Marietta resident, Atkins lives next door to his parents and spends a great deal of time providing care for his elderly father. He enjoys raising funds for the March of Dimes and the Humane Society. He also breeds Chihuahuas.

The City/BLW has begun accepting nominations for the next Employee of the Quarter Award. The City/BLW must receive nominations by June 30 for an individual to receive consideration. The Employee of the Quarter Committee will present the next award during the first or second week of July. To submit an award pick up an entry form from any City/BLW department or you may find one on our web page at www.city.marietta.ga.us.

This award is open to all City of Marietta/BLW employees below the rank of manager. If you catch one of them doing something outstanding please submit a form and let the committee know. ⚡

May/June Calendar

May 24-26

Marietta Auto Fair

Jim R. Miller Park

8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Admission.

Call for information.

770-479-6726

May 30

Brown Bag Concert Series

Marietta Square

Noon - 1 p.m.

Call for information.

770-794-5601

May 31

Glover Park Concert Series

Marietta Square

8 p.m.

Call for information.

770-794-5601

June 22

Cobb County Master

Gardeners Lectures

Backacher Garden

1792 County Services Parkway

Call for information.

770-528-4070

July 4

Independence Day Parade

10 a.m.

Call for information.

770-794-5601

July 4

Concert & Fireworks in

Marietta Square

Marietta Square

8 p.m.

Call for information.

770-794-5601

🔊 **Marietta Power will be closed for Memorial Day, May 27, 2002**